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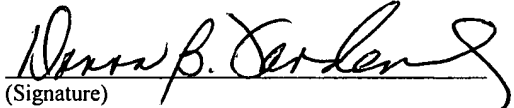


PATENT APPLICATION
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Customer No.: 23644
Application No.: 09/929,613
Confirmation No.: 9701
Filing Date: 08/13/2001
Group Art Unit: 2831
Examiner Name: William H. Mayo, III
Attorney Docket No.: 926500-920966
(Old File No.: 6500-1801.2)
First Named Inventor: Galen M. Gareis
Title: Cable Separator Spline

Certificate Under 37 CFR 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on Friday, May 14, 2004


(Signature)

Donna B. Vandenberg
(Printed Name)

- [x] AUTHORIZATION TO PAY AND PETITION FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF ANY NECESSARY FEES. If any charges or fees must be paid in connection with the following Communication (including but not limited to the payment of Issue Fees), they may be paid out of our deposit account 12-0913. If this payment also requires a Petition, please construe this authorization to pay as the necessary Petition which is required to accompany this payment.

***AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO
FINAL OFFICE ACTION OF MARCH 23, 2004***

This is in reply to the FINAL REJECTION of March 23, 2004.

Applicant is enclosing a 132 Declaration that refutes the Examiner's obvious rejection.